

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	City of Ruse	DATE DISTR.	14 September 1954
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This is UNEVALUATED

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. The construction of the Ruse-Giurgiu bridge has recently been completed. However there was no traffic across the bridge up to the middle of June 1954. The Soviet engineers and technicians who supervised the construction work on the Bulgarian side were leaving Ruse during the period April-June 1954. Laborers employed on the bridge were being laid off starting in March 1954. All approaches to the bridge are guarded by armed civilian guards (Civilna Militia) especially hired for this job by the police. They are Party members or other reliable persons of proletarian origin. They receive a monthly salary of approximately 600 leva, extra civilian clothing, some foodstuffs, and additional fuel rations for the winter free of charge. There are six to eight armed civilian guards on duty at a time; they are relieved every eight hours. The inhabitants of Ruse may approach only within several hundred yards of the bridge. Persons on official business are issued special permits to enter the prohibited area, probably by the Militia.
2. The construction of an airport for Ruse is planned between Ruse and Marten village on the banks of the Danube, approximately 500 yards from the village. Actual construction has not yet started.
3. The military forces stationed at Ruse consist of the 5 Infantry Regiment (Peti Dunavski Polk) with approximately 1,000 men quartered in a building a few hundred yards southwest of the Municipal Hospital on the banks of the Danube, and smaller units of the Cavalry and Tank Corps, both occupying a building in the vicinity of the road leading to Tutrakan. A naval unit of the Bulgarian Danube fleet is garrisoned on the banks of the Lom River, a few hundred yards southeast of the Port. The Military Area office (Voyenno Okruzhie) which handles the call-up of recruits, reservists, etc., is located in Ploshtad Drenovo Square in a one-story building. No Soviet troops are stationed in Ruse or vicinity. Soviets in uniform have not been seen in the town in the past few years. The only Soviet officials in the town are the members of staff of the Soviet Consulate, located in a two-story building on a side street branching off Tsaritsa Yoanna Street. The approximate strength of the Militia force in Ruse is 200.

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4. The construction of a paved strategic highway from Ruse to Sofia was completed in 1954. It passes through Byala, runs parallel to the old main road to Sofia, and down to the southern border.
5. There is no large-scale building activity in Ruse and its surroundings. About eight to ten apartment blocks, each with 40 small flats for workers' families, are being built in various places throughout the city. The building of the opera on Ulitza Sveta Troitsa, which was started two years ago, is nearing completion. No military or industrial construction work is in progress, including alterations or enlargements of existing factories.
6. The Karpati furniture factory, which is working 24 hours a day, is engaged almost exclusively in export orders for the USSR. The factory also turns out cartridge boxes for the Bulgarian Army. A leather factory, formerly Penkov & Popov, produces soles and upper leather for boots for the Bulgarian Army.
7. The Ruse prison was closed at the beginning of 1954. All inmates were transferred to the central prison in Pleven.
8. Traffic on the Danube River at Ruse consists exclusively of small steamers and river boats carrying passengers and merchandise to and from the other Satellite countries. Czechoslovakian boats, approximately one per month, anchor at Ruse discharging general cargo for Bulgaria such as agricultural machines, bicycles, sugar, etc. Loading or unloading of military cargo, such as arms and ammunition, has not been observed in Ruse port in the past few years.
9. Passenger traffic across the border to Giurgiu, Rumania, still goes by the regular ferry-boat service, which leaves Ruse at 4 a.m. and 4 p.m. The sleeper of the Transbalkan Express, which arrives at Ruse from Sofia at 2 a.m., is carried by the ferry to the Rumanian side at 4 a.m. The approaches to the ferry-boat station are strongly guarded, unauthorized persons not being allowed to approach the boat.
10. Perlstein (fnu) is the manager of the Soviet Club (Klub Na Sovetski Grazhdani) in Ruse.

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